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From: "Thompson, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Thompson@Coors.com>
To: "secy@nrc.gov" <secy@nrc.gov>
Date: Fri, Dec 17, 1999 6:32 PM
Subject: Nuclear waste

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Under no circumstances do I condone, accept or agree to support nuclear power and weapons wastes "released," "cleared," "deregulated," "exempted," "generally licensed," designated "de minimis," "unimportant" or BRC -- below regulatory concern -- or by any other means allowed out of nuclear facilities and into the marketplace or the environment, at any level!!

How dare you! Just because there is a mess to clean up doesn't mean you have the right to dump it on the rest of us. I bet if you had asked whether we want nuclear power that has very harmful residuals most of the population would have said no!! You allowed the mess. The solution is not to disburse it to diffuse the blame. Own it and take responsibility for it. And keep it to yourselves in your own "backyard" until you can figure out what to do with it in your own yard. Perhaps that will convince you to quit creating it!!

Both of my parents have died from cancer and hardly anyone I know is untouched by this terrible condition. Please, please become part of the solution. Contain it where it is even if it means shutting down further production. Create jobs for those who would be put out of work in controlling/monitoring the containment or on other safer forms of energy production.

I "fully support the complete opposition and "zero tolerance" policies of the metal and recycling industries, the management and the unions. I appreciate their efforts, not only in opposition to legalization of radioactive releases, but in their investment in detection equipment and literally holding the line against the radioactive threat to the public."

Thank you for listening to my concerns. Please take them to heart! Help us help each other.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Thompson

TURNING NUCLEAR WASTE INTO HOUSEHOLD ITEMS ??

A large scale radioactive "recycling" program that would turn RADIOACTIVE WASTE into HOUSEHOLD ITEMS is being planned by the folks at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), in conjunction with the nuclear industry and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

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By turning radioactive metal into common household items, the nuclear industry would save billions of dollars by reusing metals that were once part of nuclear power plants, weapons factories and weapons themselves. Additionally, the DOE would save money by escaping the responsibility of cleaning up the huge mess DOE and the nuclear industry have made at the nation's weapons plants.

Some of the radioactive items would include:

- Cookware and eating utensils
- Eyeglass frames
- Zippers
- Computer batteries
- Jewelry
- Food and cans & containers
- Braces for teeth
- Anything made with metal

What is the real cost?

Unfortunately, the release of these metals would cause increased exposures to radioactivity to the extent that direct contact with the household items, along with the effects from increased overall background radiation, would cause an estimated 92,755 additional cancer deaths in the U.S., according to the NRC.

What you can do:

1) PUBLIC COMMENTS NEEDED BY DECEMBER 22, 1999

The NRC is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to consider all potential impacts and options. Here is your chance to tell the NRC how much radiation you are willing to receive so that others can save money.

(For more information: 64 Federal Register 35090 June 30, 1999 ;
www.citizen.org/cmep/; www.nirs.org)

Mail letters to
NRC Chairman Richard Meserve
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555
Attn: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff

or submit through the internet, at <http://ruleform.llnl.gov/Email.html>.
or E-mail directly to: secy@nrc.gov

2) Ask the media why they haven't covered this issue.

Some key points you might include in your statement:

We do not want nuclear power and weapons wastes "released," "cleared," "deregulated," "exempted," "generally licensed," designated "de minimis," "unimportant" or BRC -- below regulatory concern -- or by any other means allowed out of nuclear facilities and into the marketplace or the environment, at any level.

Once these radioactive wastes enter the recycling stream, recovering or controlling them will be outside the ability of anyone, citizens, government or industry.

No matter what level the NRC sets for allowable radiation risk, dose or concentration, it will be difficult or impossible to measure, verify and enforce.

Using radioactive wastes in consumer products poses unnecessary, avoidable, involuntary, uninformed risks. The consumer, the producers and the raw materials industries don't want these radioactive wastes or risks.

The NRC should also extend the comment period to at least September 2000. This issue is too important to act hastily upon and it should be fully debated by the public.

We fully support the complete opposition and "zero tolerance" policies of the metal and recycling industries, the management and the unions. We appreciate their efforts, not only in opposition to legalization of radioactive releases, but in their investment in detection equipment and literally holding the line against the radioactive threat to the public.

The fact that radioactive waste is already getting out into the environment should not be used to justify legal levels allowing more releases. The NRC, EPA and DOE should prevent future releases and try to correct past releases. The United States should take the lead in preventing the contamination of the international marketplace.

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